The cradle of Texas Immigration

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

Vol. 29, No. 11

March 2016

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By Sarita Richmond, Editor

Some may remember The Spiritual Renewal Center (SRC) from the early 90’s, like me; cedar cabins, a simple chapel and one meeting room with stone walkways. As I returned for the Bishop’s dinner for the first time in 25 years this past Fall, I was blown away by the many wonderful improvements that have been made since those days. The peaceful nature of the SRC was exactly the same but it had been transformed into a magnificent oasis!

The SRC is located on approximately 40 of 200 rolling acres, owned by the Diocese of Victoria in Texas. It is nestled along the banks of the San Antonio River and for 28 years has been a place of prayer, reflection, spiritual nourishment and peace. The SRC participates in the mission of the church of Victoria as well as the universal Catholic Church by providing a place apart from the demands of everyday life where individuals may go seeking God more deeply in their lives.

The story of the land and how the SRC found its’ home there has many facets. The physical location and design of the site was chosen by the 1st Bishop of Victoria, Most Rev. Charles V. Grahmann. The land now owned by the Diocese of Victoria was acquired from Our Lady of Lourdes. Our Lady of Lourdes acquired the land through a bequest from Gussie Schmidt. When Bishop Grahmann saw the character and beauty of the land he instantly knew he wanted the future Spiritual Renewal Center built on that picturesque land! He envisioned a rustic setting with “log cabin” type lodging and a chapel.

The early roots of the SRC date back even earlier to the 1800’s. The land was originally owned by Don Carlos DelaGarza who received it from a Spanish land grant. The Amador family, a direct descendent to DelaGarza, still owns some of the land that surrounds the SRC. The “Family DelaGarza Cemetery” is located on the SRC grounds. Amador Amador, his wife Consuelo and their children began working part-time at the SRC in 1988 when it opened. Part-time led to full-time and as daughter Julia Amador who today is the Associate Director of the SRC with her primary responsibility being the manager of the kitchen and housekeeping staffs states, “We already lived out here when I was a young girl, who knew that God would put our work next door to our house!” She also says she feels very blessed to have dedicated her life to her family and the SRC. Julia says, “There is a peacefulness about the place where people regenerate not only spiritually but physically. I’ve lived here for 43 years!” Julia shares that 18,000 meals were served last year! She and a cook staff serve 3 meals a day and snacks to those on retreat.

Since the SRC’s opening in 1988, the Texas climate and insects have not been kind to the buildings. Many of the buildings have suffered from wood rot and termite infestations. With

~ The Spiritual Renewal Center ~

Its Early Roots And Now

See The Spiritual Renewal Center, pg. 10

See Faithful From Diocese, pg. 3

Graphic by Frank Lozano

Faithful From Diocese Travel To See Pope

On February 18, 2016, people traveled to El Paso, Texas and Juarez, Mexico from the Diocese of Victoria to see Pope Francis. Among the thousands were a group from Bay City, a group from Our Lady of Sorrows Church and Bishop Brendan Cahill. Bishop Cahill was privileged to join the other bishops on the Texas side at the levee and serve the “VIP Guests” who gathered. He also joined an old friend at Annunciation House, a shelter in El Paso for immigrants. Esther Trevino, one of the Bay City group members, who was at the Sun Bowl, shared, “The most powerful moment for me, was when he blessed us.” They

See Faithful From Diocese, pg. 3
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

St. John Paul II made a pilgrimage to Fatima, Portugal on May 13, 2000. During the great Jubilee at the beginning of the new millennium the holy Pope desired to offer thanks to our Blessed Mother for many special graces. On that day he preached at a special Mass, and after the Mass an announcement was read by Cardinal Angelo Sodano who at the time was the Vatican’s Secretary of State. The quotes that I am going to mention in this article can be found more fully on the Vatican web-site, if you search for (http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20000626_message-fatima_en.html)

Cardinal Sodano said:

“The vision of Fatima concerns above all the war waged by atheistic systems against the Church and Christians, and it describes the immense sufferings endured by the witnesses of the faith in the last century of the second millennium. It is an interminable Way of the Cross led by the Popes of the twentieth century. …”

After the assassination attempt of 13 May 1981, it appeared evident that it was ‘a mother’s hand that guided the bullet’s path’, enabling ‘the Pope in his throes’ to halt ‘at the threshold of death’ …

The successive events of 1989 led, both in the Soviet Union and in a number of countries of Eastern Europe, to the fall of the Communist regimes which pronounced atheism. For this too His Holiness offers heartfelt thanks to the Most Holy Virgin. In other parts of the world, however, attacks against the Church and against Christians, with the burden of suffering they bring, tragically continue. Even if the events to which the third part of the ‘secret’ of Fatima refers now seem to be a part of the past, Our Lady’s call to conversion and penance, issued at the start of the twentieth century, remains timely and urgent today. ‘The Lady of the message seems to read the signs of the times – the signs of our time – with special insight… The insistent invitation of Mary Most Holy to penance is nothing but the manifestation of her maternal concern for the fate of the human family, in need of conversion and forgiveness.’”

As part of our diocesan celebration of the Jubilee of Mercy I’ve invited people to join in the Consecration to Jesus through Mary on the 99th anniversary of the first apparition of Fatima. The date of this anniversary is Friday, May 13 – two days before the Feast of the Pentecost. A main reason for my consideration of this comes from the inspiration of the talks given in Fatima on that day in 2000. After Cardinal Sodano delivered the announcement I referred to above, then-Cardinal Ratzinger (now-Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI) offered a deep theological commentary on the message of Fatima. In the last paragraph of his commentary he wrote:

“I would like finally to mention another key expression of the ‘secret’ which has become justly famous: ‘my Immaculate Heart will triumph’. What does this mean? The Heart open to God, purified by contemplation of God, is stronger than guns and weapons of every kind. The fiat of Mary, the word of her heart, has changed the history of the world, because it brought the Saviour into the world – because, thanks to her Yes, God could become man in our world and remains so for all time. The Evil One has power in this world, as we see and experience continually; he has power because our freedom continually lets itself be led away from God. But since God himself took a human heart and has thus steered human freedom towards what is good, the freedom to choose evil no longer has the last word. From that time forth, the word that prevails is this: ‘In the world you will have tribulation, but take heart; I have overcome the world’ (John 16:33). The message of Fatima invites us to trust in this promise.’”

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, may our hearts be purified by the contemplation of God, and by our acts of penance and charity for the salvation of the whole world. In this issue of the Lighthouse we will publish a prayer of St. John Paul II that he prayed as an Act of Entrustment to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. We also will give reference to a book written by St. Louis de Montfort – “Preparation for Total Consecration” – which provides a spiritual guide for 33 days to prepare for this consecration. For those who want to make this spiritual journey it would begin on April 10 and could conclude on May 13 with a simple prayer for our Blessed Mother. This book can be purchased at

See Message From Bishop, pg. 3

Effective February 1, 2016, Rev. Tommy Chen is appointed Vocation Director and Director of Seminarians for the Diocese of Victoria

Effective February 1, 2016, Mrs. Debbie Vanelli is appointed Diocesan Director of Catholic Relief Services and the Campaign for Human Development.

Effective March 1, 2016, Rev. Ty Bazar is appointed parochial vicar of Saint Rose of Lima Church, Schulenburg

Effective March 1, 2016, Rev. Jasper Liggio is appointed Director of Pro-Life Concerns for the Diocese of Victoria

Bishop Brendan Cahill has chosen Deacon Joe Duplan, Director of the Spiritual Renewal Center, as Co-Chair and 10 delegates to represent the Diocese of Victoria as part of a Region X team of V Encuentro. The delegates are: The Reverend Robert F. Guerra, Pastor, Parish of the Nativity, Eagle Lake, Mary Lou Duplan, Co-Director, Spiritual Renewal Center, Cesar Hernandez, Parishioner, Capilla de la Santisima Trinidad, Genoveva Torres, PCL Leader, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Wharton, Mr. Auturo & Carolina Lara, Parishioners of Our Lady of Victory, Sr. Miriam Perez, Provincial Superior, Missionary Catechist of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary, Deacon Ed Molina, Our Lady of Sorrows, Victoria, Dr. Gloria Gonzalez, Parishioner of Holy Family Church, Victoria, and the Reverend Antonio Perez, Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

The main objective of the process of the Encuentro is to discern the way in which Hispanics/Latinos respond as Church. The process of Encuentro for Hispanic/Latino ministry has been deeply ecclesial. It is motivated by reading the signs of the times and convened by the bishops, who call the Hispanic/Latino community to raise their voices. Delegates will learn the Encuentro process and in turn, lead the implementation and formation of the program in our diocese by training parish teams.

POSTMARKER:
Send address changes to The Catholic Lighthouse, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903.

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DSA update

2015 Diocesan Services Appeal

Diocesan Goal: $1,826,700.00
Parish Pledge Totals: $1,088,985.58
Parish Contribution Totals: $1,066,426.06
Number of Parish Families Participating: 3,503

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The Diocese of Victoria is comprised of more than 50 parishes in 69 communities.

Estimated Catholic population: 107,000.
Seminary Burses

Seminary burses are a permanent fund used for the education of future priests for the Diocese of Victoria. The goal of each burse is $15,000. The interest from this amount is applied yearly to the education of seminarians. The burses are in memory of or in honor of an individual priest or lay persons, living or deceased. Publication of the burses will appear periodically when new contributions are received.

February 24, 2016

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April 3

3:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Holy Family Church, Wharton

March

7-8

Pro-Life Activities Meeting, Washington, D.C.

9

2:00 p.m., Building Dedication & Blessing, St. Joseph High School, Victoria

6:00 p.m., CCD Night, Queen of the Holy Rosary Church, Hostyn

12

4:00 p.m., Mass, St. Joseph Abbey & Seminarian Youth Fest, St. Benedict, Louisiana

15

6:30 p.m., Clergy & Religious Appreciation Dinner, KC Hall, Victoria

16

2:30 p.m., Finance Board Meeting, Chancery, Victoria

17

6:00 p.m., Mass & Reception, St. Patrick’s Church, Seadrift

20

9:00 a.m., Palm Sunday Mass, The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria

22

10:00 a.m., Chrism Mass, The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria

24

6:30 p.m., Holy Thursday Mass, The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria

25

12:00 p.m., Good Friday Services, Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Victoria

26

8:00 p.m., Easter Vigil Mass, The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria

27

9:00 a.m., Easter Sunday Mass, The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria

4

8:00 a.m., School Mass & Visit, Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca

Act of Entrustment
Saint Pope John Paul II

"O Mother of all men and women, and of all peoples, you who know all their sufferings and their hopes, you who have a mother’s awareness of all the struggles between good and evil, between light and darkness, which afflict the modern world, accept the cry which we, moved by the Holy Spirit, address directly to your Heart. Embrace with the love of the Mother and Handmaid of the Lord, this human world of ours, which we entrust and consecrate to you, for we are full of concern for the earthly and eternal destiny of individuals and peoples.

In a special way we entrust and consecrate to you those individuals and nations which particularly need to be thus entrusted and consecrated.

We have recourse to your protection, holy Mother of God! ‘Despise not our petitions in our necessities’.

(Excerpt taken from The Message of Fatima)
Bishop Jean Odin

As the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament of Victoria, Texas, celebrate 150 years in Victoria, Texas, we look at the conditions in early Texas which preceded the Foundation in Victoria in 1866.

Bishop Jean Odin was the first bishop of the Diocese of Galveston – which included the whole state of Texas – had requested the Sisters in France to found the Order in his diocese. So in 1852 four Sisters, with Sister Clare Valentine as Superior, arrived in Galveston where they spent eight months learning English and Spanish along with American customs. From there they went to Brownsville where they founded the Order in America in 1853.

As one looks back over the many hardships that the pioneer Sisters had to endure, one has to appreciate the great faith that sustained them in their mission. We have already seen how an ill-fated delay in Vera Cruz, Mexico, resulted in the death from yellow fever of four of the young Sisters who were on their way from Europe to the foundation in South Texas. Trials were numerous, yet the Sisters maintained faith and hope in their mission. For example, Brownsville endured periodic epidemics of yellow fever, the fury of hurricanes, and post Mexican-American War raids. In spite of constantly struggling to keep up buildings and personnel, the Sisters were ably educating the children in their schools – during periods between epidemics, raids, hurricanes and the U.S. Civil War.

Now, most of the fighting of the Civil War did not take place in Texas; however, Fort Brown in Brownsville was a target to be captured by the Union forces resulting in conflict for the local people, most of whom had fled when the violence began. Although the school was closed during the war, resulting in an absence of income, the monastery was protected by both armies; in fact, soldiers from both sides asked that their wives seek safety in the monastery with the Sisters. Commanding officers from both armies made sure that the Sisters – and the soldiers’ wives – had ample provisions for survival.

Like the rest of the Gulf States, there was a blockade around the ports of entry. As a result communication and movement of supplies to and from Europe and other states were cut off by the blockage. The inability to make contact with Europe and receive advice and support from the Sisters in France was difficult for the young foundation. Moreover, many of the civilians had fled when the Union army came to capture Brownsville.

At that time, young men in Texas were being forced into the Confederate Army, I have read accounts of how the men would go into hiding in the woods near a water source such as a creek to avoid serving in the Confederate military. Many were recent immigrants who had fled their former homelands in quest of freedom. They had no intention of fighting to preserve slavery! While they were in hiding, their wives would supply them with baskets of bread and the men would kill wildlife for food. On moon-lit nights they would be able to sneak back to their homesteads and take care of necessary farm work. During the day, they would lie low until the Confederate officers would finally give up and decide not to waste any more time trying to find them.

When the war was over and the Union troops were leaving the captured city, they did not destroy Brownsville because of the kindness of the Sisters there; in fact, they only destroyed the fort, leaving all their provisions with the Sisters, who distributed them among the impoverished people who had remained in Brownsville. After the war, the school reopened and the student body continued to grow in numbers. It was at this time that Bishop Dubuis of Texas requested that the Sisters begin a school in Victoria. After Mother St. Claire Valentine’s arrival with the surviving volunteers she had recruited from France and Ireland, the Bishop’s dream could be realized. The Sisters arrived in Victoria from Brownsville on December 21, 1866!

Closing of the Year of Consecrated Life

The Diocese of Victoria officially closed the Year of Consecrated Life on World Day for Consecrated Life, February 7, with two events. The Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament and the Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary gathered with the parishioners at Our Lady of Lourdes Church with Father Albert Yankey and Father John Kollannur at the 10:00 a.m. Mass. Both religious communities took part in the liturgy and they also shared the stories of their communities. After the Mass, all gathered for a meal.

In the evening, the Sisters and the faithful gathered at Incarnate Word Convent Chapel with Bishop Brendan Cahill for Adoration and Solemn Vespers. Bishop Cahill and the religious Sisters and all the faithful joined together to give thanks for the graced Year of Consecrated Life. It was a year of grateful remembrance for the past, of living the present with passion, and embracing the future with hope.

Try Different Types of Prayer – We all have different tastes in prayer, just like most other things in life. So, try out different types of prayer and see which ones work for you. One caveat – don’t give up too soon on a type of prayer. It might take a good long time to discover whether it is good for you or not.
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Catholic School Employees

Years of Service

5 Years of Service
Nazareth Academy, Victoria
Etzler, Sr. Lois Marie
St. Anthony School, Columbus
Schobel, Nicole
Shiner Catholic Schools
Vrana, Carol
Sacred Heart School, Hallettsville
Pastuch, Shadra
Sykora, Lynette
St. Rose of Lima School, Schulenburg
Johnson, Christine
Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca
Resendez, Stella
Our Lady of Victory School, Victoria
Ottmann, Brenda
Lara, Amy
St. Joseph High School, Victoria
McCulloch, Daryl
Boehm, Lynwood
Carson, Jennifer
Guthrie, Cheryl
Korinek, Jen
St. Philip School, El Campo
Irby, Natalie
Rawlinson, Stephanie
Stavinoha, Maria

10 Years of Service
Nazareth Academy, Victoria
Janda, Sr. Liliana
Shiner Catholic Schools
Grabarkievz, Tammy
Hagel, Donna
Knesek, Lisa
St. Michael’s School, Cuero
Haun, Gina
Our Lady of Victory School, Victoria
Knippa, Kerri
Schilhadt, Julie
St. Joseph High School, Victoria
Mumphord, Alvin III
Grunewald, Laura
Canas, Adrian
St. Rose of Lima School, Schulenburg
Gallia, Rosanne
St. Anthony School, Columbus
O’Leary, Sandy
Walla, Laura

15 Years of Service
Shiner Catholic Schools
Hybner, Alisa
Stock, Mary Ann
Vrana, Kathy
Sacred Heart School, Hallettsville
Grafe, Sr. Emiliiana
St. Rose of Lima School, Schulenburg
Mican, Jeannie
Bonner, Matt

20 Years of Service
Our Lady of Victory School, Victoria
Dornak, Mona
Waak, Beth
St. Joseph High School, Victoria
Gerdes, Galen
Sauer, Sabra

25 Years of Service
St. Joseph School, Yoakum
Ferrell, Mary Sue
Our Lady of Victory School, Victoria
Gehrke, Dorothy
St. Anthony School, Columbus
Darr, Sandy

30 Years of Service
St. Joseph High School, Victoria
Boyle, Gretchen
St. Rose of Lima School, Schulenburg
Kunz, Donna

45 Years of Service
Our Lady of Victory School, Victoria
Hall, Gwen

Grades five through twelve gather in the Sacred Heart Gym to close Catholic Schools Week with some fun and competition.

Catholic Knowledge Bowl
at Sacred Heart School

HALLETTSVILLE—On February 5, 2016, after a fantastic series of Catholic School Week activities, grades five through twelve, gathered in the gym to close the week with some fun and competition. Students had been forming teams of four and signing up to participate in the competition, to show how much of their faith they have learned and remember. By Friday morning, again matching last year’s record of 33 teams, they gathered on the gym floor to get ready for the questions. Students not participating in the contest gathered in the bleachers with a card to record their choices.

All was still as Monsignor John Peters and Ida Bludau read the questions as they were projected on the wall. Three rounds, of 20 questions each, followed in quick succession as only 10-15 seconds were given to select the correct answer. Between rounds, scoring took place while correct answers were projected for all to check their choices. Team scores were given after each round and those in the audience could see how they did in comparison with the participants. Maybe they will be ready to enter next year.

As the final round was completed and checked, the following winners were announced. First place in Junior High was captured by “Papa John’s Team”, the defending champions from last year. Amassing 50 points were John Cesarz, Ella Harper, Shelby Haas, and Carley Haas. Second place with 44 points went to “The Evangelists”: Hayden Grahmann, Trey Ridgeway, Trenton Kraatz, and Luke Bludau. After a tie breaker, “God’s Angels” came in third place. This team was made up of Heidi Ortolon, Elise Lackey, Matthew Roznovsky and Morgan Machac. Also earning 40 points was the team “Shepherd Sisters” who received Honorable Mention. Members were Abby Clark, Emma Hawkins, Addison Belicke and Emma Nieto.

There was stiff competition among the high school teams with six teams garnering from 44 to 48 points. “Marc’s Fan Club” emerged from second place last year to claim first place with 48 points. Members were Tyler Kraatz, Marc Raphael, Luke Harper and Caleb Krischke. Second place was captured by “Nuns and Roses” with 46 points. This team was made up of Miranda Shimek, Erica Pavliska, Corinna Lackey and Kristen Osina. “Just a Few Girls”, Jamie Shimek, Julie Brown, Cadie Perez and Alyssa Tobola came in third with 45 points.

Congratulations to these winners and all 132 students who participated on teams. Perhaps some of the 50+ students who tested their knowledge by participating from the bleachers will form their teams next year. The four teams who have already signed up for the Diocesan Catholic Knowledge Bowl in Victoria on February 21 will have already had some valuable practice.

Reporting Abuse

If you or someone you know has been sexually abused by a member of the clergy or other church personnel, you can register a complaint.

• Call the bishop or the chancellor at the Chancery at (361) 573-0828; or
• Call Fr. Gary Janak (361) 575-4741 or Sr. Emilie Eilers (361) 575-7111, Coordinators of Pastoral Care and Outreach; or
• Mark your letter “Personal and Confidential”. Write to: Most Rev. Brendan J. Cahill, Diocese of Victoria, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903.

We will also help you bring your concerns to Church officials outside the diocese if the abuse occurred elsewhere and you now reside in the Diocese of Victoria. If you are unsure about bringing forth a complaint or need more information, please contact: Fr. Gary Janak at (361) 575-4741.

Reporting Child Abuse Hotline • 1 (800) 252-5400 • www.txabusehotline.org

If you know or suspect a child or person has been abused or mistreated, you are required to report it to the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services or to a law enforcement agency within 48 hours.

If the person is in immediate danger, call 911.

Stocks | Bonds | CDs | Mutual Funds | IRAs

Kenneth J. French, Sr.
1501 E Mockingbird, Ste 102
Victoria, TX 77901

(361) 576-0178
kenny.french@edwardjones.com
Annual Bishop Fellhauer Invitational Golf Tournament to Honor Father Morales

A unanimous decision was made by the tournament committee that this year the Annual Bishop Fellhauer Invitational Golf Tournament would be in honor and appreciation of Father Dan Morales. He served as Vocations Director for almost 10 years, began the mission trips to Guatemala, and has been instrumental in the formation of many Diocese of Victoria seminarians.

The Youth Office, Vocations Office, and Seminarian Education Fund will receive an appreciated boost with the help of the Knights of Columbus #9088 at Holy Family in Victoria. These three programs are the benefactors of the 19th annual Bishop Fellhauer Golf Tournament, scheduled for April 22, 2016, at The Club at Colony Creek. The tournament committee, Monroe Rieger, sponsorship chairman, and Ron Sitka, tournament chairman, have been busy preparing for this jam-packed day!

Funds received from this tournament will be used for the above-mentioned offices, as well as for scholarships. Our diocese is blessed to have both a very active youth ministry and vocation ministry that work hand-in-hand to minister more effectively to the young people of the diocese.

The Youth Office has made it possible for students to attend the annual Pro-life Rally in Austin and allowed for expansion of the retreat program for Confirmation, junior high, and high school students. However, due to limited resources, some young people are unable to participate in the various activities without subsidization. The funds from this tournament help alleviate that situation, as well as provide opportunities for new and innovative programming. This spring it has allowed the diocese to charter a bus to allow high school students to attend Abbey Youth Fest at St. Joseph Seminary in St. Benedict, LA where several of our seminarians attend. We are also able to make a long term dream of a youth pavilion at the Spiritual Renewal Center a reality, with partial funds that have accumulated over the past years from golf tournament proceeds.

The Vocations Office has benefited from past tournaments by being able to hold an annual boys vocation camp. Tournament proceeds have also helped the Vocations Office subsidize funding of an annual mission trip to an orphanage in Guatemala where the seminarians are taught Spanish and work in the orphanage while there.

In measurable outcomes, the diocese has realized an increase in vocations since implementing the various camps and direct contact initiatives.

As was done last year, all monies received from the $1,000 Bishop Level sponsors will be earmarked exclusively for the Seminarian Education Fund, as the tremendous increase in seminarians in our diocese necessitates more funds to educate these prospective priests. The average cost to educate one seminarian for a year is $35,000 and next year the diocese expects to have 10 seminarians. Please consider becoming a $1,000 Bishop Level sponsor in the name of one of our seminarians. You may personally choose a seminarian to sponsor or one can be assigned to you.

Sponsorship levels for the tournament are categorized as follows: BISHOP—$1,000; MONSIGNOR—$500; PRIEST—$200; DEACON—$100; and SEMINARIAN—$50. All sponsorships below Bishop Level will be split evenly between the youth and vocations offices.

Priest Level sponsors and higher will be given first priority to play in the tournament. Sponsor signs will be displayed on the tee boxes and on a large display sign at the main scoreboard.

If you have any questions, or would like to be a sponsor, please contact Monroe Rieger at (361) 571-6535.
VALENTINE ROYALTY—The Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Joseph, Protector of Mary #2475 from St. Joseph Church in Inez, held a Valentine luncheon for the single senior citizens of the parish on Valentine’s Day. Seated in the center, with crowns on, are the king and queen, Bessie Repka and Charles Nelson, Sr.

KC’S HELPING COMMUNITY EFFORTS—The Knights of Columbus Council #1329 of Victoria, participated in the American Wheelchair Mission by donating two wheelchairs to Victoria Christian Assistance Ministry. Pictured from left to right are, Grand Knight Donald Shellenbarger, VCAM Director Susan Whitfield and Brother Knight Harvin Suggs.

KC ANNUAL AWARDS— Knight of Columbus Council #9088, Holy Family Victoria awards Otto Bleier, Jr. (left) Knight of the Year for 2015. Family of the Year 2015 was awarded to Eddie and Janet Huse. Both awards were presented by Harvey Kocian, grand knight.

SHOWER FOR BABIES—Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Ann #369 in Victoria had a baby shower for the Gabriel Project at their February monthly meeting. Pictured, left-right, is Kathy Ormsby, regent; Barbara Williams with Gabriel Project and Sandra Genoway, court project chairman.

CDA MEMBERS RECOGNIZED—Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Our Lady of the Gulf #2267, Port Lavaca, recognized the ladies chosen for each quarter of 2015. Pictured, left to right, is Margaret Hilscher, regent, Margaret Yanta, daughter of the first quarter; Dolores Miller, daughter of the second quarter and daughter of the year; Grace Gonzalez, daughter of the third quarter; and Rose Marie Knobles, daughter of the fourth quarter.

KJT SUPPORTS CHARITIES—KJT Society #34 Don Naiser, president, presents a check for $1,000 to Rev. Joseph Vrana, pastor of St. Mary’s Church of Nada, at a recent meeting. The contribution is designated for the parish’s New Hall Fund. Also pictured (l to r) is Kelly Korenek, treasurer; Margaret Holik, director of District VII; and Sean Korenek, vice-president. Also, at that meeting Don Naiser presented a check for $1,375 to Margaret Holik which will benefit the Diocese of Victoria Seminarian Education Fund and Priests Retirement Fund. The society raised the money from their Harvest Season Dinner Fundraiser which is to benefit the KJT State Charities.

In Memory of Jerome Kutach

Jerome M. Kutach, a retired architect and long time resident of Houston, Texas died on February 21, 2016, at the age of 81. Jerome was born September 13, 1934, in Hallettsville, Texas. He was a graduate of the University of Texas with a Bachelor of Architecture degree. His military service included seven years in the Army National Guard. Jerome was associated with Herman Lloyd Architects and DiStefano & Assoc.

Chase Goodman is in Theology I at Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. His birthday is March 22. Write to Chase at: 7625 N. High St., Columbus, OH 43235.

James Dvorak is in Theology I at St. Mary’s Seminary in Houston. His birthday is March 24. Write to James at: 9845 Memorial Dr., Houston, TX 77024.
ASH WEDNESDAY CELEBRATED—San Roberto Belarmino was truly blessed with a visit from Bishop Brendan Cahill of the Diocese of Victoria, he celebrated Mass on Ash Wednesday at the parish. Participating in the Mass were the officers from the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court San Roberto Bellarmine #2275 and the 4th Degree Knights. Pictured above are Becky Estrada, secretary, Elma Escobar, vice regent, Monsignor Lawrence Matula, pastor of San Roberto Belarmino; Bishop Cahill, Terri Beltran, Texas state treasurer and local court regent and Hector Gutierrez, Faithful Comptroller - Assembly Corp Commander for the Knights of Columbus #1131.

STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN PSIA—On February 13, Catholic schools District 7AA came together at the Our Lady of Victory School campus in Victoria to compete in Ready Writing Numbers Sense, On-Site Drawing and other subjects. The first place winners advance to the Academic State Meet for “AA” which will be held at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth on April 30, 2016.

A WARM WELCOME—Father Barnabas Kyeh, parochial vicar at Sacred Heart Parish in Hallettsville, getting handshakes from young students from Sacred Heart School.

A STEP CLOSER—The Rite of Election was held, Sunday, February 14, 2016 (the first Sunday of Lent) at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory in Victoria. This rite is the second major ritual of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), which closes the Period of the Catechumenate. There 72 Catechumens (those who will be receiving Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil) and 79 Candidates (those who have been baptized in another Christian faith, being received fully into the Catholic Church) from 19 parishes in the Diocese of Victoria participated in the Rite.

A BIG THANK YOU—A sincere thank you to the 37 volunteers who came to help with the Diocesan Services Appeal mail out. This group of volunteers has worked tirelessly year after year, with some coming faithfully for the past 20 years. Approximately 22,000 pledge cards and letters were sent to parishioners throughout the Diocese of Victoria.
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A group of approximately 30 individuals representing the various ministries of the diocese met on a Saturday with the lead architect, Ben Heimsath, to collaborate on a new vision for the SRC. It was very important to preserve as much of the original design as possible. After an all-day meeting, the group reached a consensus of the redesign of the SRC including amenities that needed to be added. The most pressing need was the reconstruction of the chapel and the construction of a new multi-purpose building. In addition to the two buildings the group expressed a need for future sleeping quarters, a grotto, outdoor Stations of the Cross, a pavilion for use by the youth and for others during inclement weather, adequate parking, new sidewalks, and a Marian trail (where one prays the rosary as he/she reflects on the mysteries of the rosary).

Once the Master Plan was developed and the projects identified and prioritized, a design phase began using the services of Heimsath Architects. Additionally, a capital campaign was planned to fund the construction of Phase I and other needs identified by Bishop Fellhauer. Through the efforts of a dedicated chancery staff and a fund raising consultant, the diocese raised approximately $12,000,000 from the “Reflection of Faith” campaign. With $6,000,000 dedicated to the SRC, construction began on the new multi-purpose building and the reconstruction of the chapel. Both projects were completed in 2009 and the diocese now has Hermes Hall which can accommodate large group meetings and Incarnate Word Chapel. In 2011, a new dorm was constructed with 16 rooms sleeping a total of 48 people. The new dorm has yet to be named. The diocese is hoping to find a donor who will contribute $225,000 towards the cost of the building for the right to name the dorm in honor of or in memory of a family or individual. There are plans for two more dorms that will mirror the one already built. There are plans for two more dorms that will mirror the one already built. In time, most of the log cabins will be razed due to the damage done by the wood rot and termites. In addition to naming the building, individual sleeping rooms may be dedicated in honor of or in memory of a family or individual for a donation of $10,000. To date, only one room has been reserved.

This year, through a bequest and the proceeds raised through the Bishop David Fellhauer Invitational Golf Tournament, a new pavilion will be built behind the old Emmaus dining hall. The golf tournament, hosted by Knights of Columbus Council #9088, is held annually. The proceeds from the tournament go to support the education of seminarians and the youth and seminarian/vocation offices.

To date, the facility has been used by thousands of persons of all religions. Some more recent groups that have spent time at the SRC include St. Thomas University, ACTS Retreat groups, priest retreats, youth groups from the Diocese of Victoria, the Chancery Staff and others. Bishop Cahill came to the SRC as a seminarian never thinking he would be the bishop of the exact same diocese!

On a day-to-day basis Deacon Joe Duplán, Director of the SRC, oversees the ground and works with the employees of the SRC. He books events, participates in some events and works to constantly improve the SRC. Deacon Joe shares, “The Center is an oasis away from everything where you can work on your spiritual life and come together with nature.” Deacon Joe is also a master electrician which has been of great benefit to the operation of the SRC.

The desire of the Diocese of Victoria and all who have experienced the beauty and peacefulness of the SRC is for as many others as possible to experience the same.

To make a reservation or book a retreat at the Spiritual Renewal Center call (361) 572-0836 or visit victoriadiocese.org. If you are interested in naming a room or the new dormitory, contact Mike Brown at (361) 573-0828.
New faces around the Chancery Office include Brunilda Ortiz, Administrative Assistant-Office of Catechetical Ministry; Sister Marian Sturm, Assistant Director-Pastoral Institute; Brenda Martinez, Administrative Assistant-Pastoral Institute; and Angela Martinez, front desk receptionist.

Safe Environment Adds Associate Director To Staff

The Diocese of Victoria welcomes Vicki Pyatt as the new Associate Director of the Office of Safe Environment. She has been a member of Our Lady of Victory Parish all of her life. She attended school there, and now serves as an Extraordinary Minister as well as Co-Chairperson for the Fall Festival. She and her husband, Ned have been blessed with two children; Jacob who attends Our Lady of Victory School and Jordan who attends St. Joseph High School. Vicki shares, “I am most privileged to be working for the Catholic Diocese of Victoria!

Vicki was called at an early age to a career as a Social Worker and she enjoys serving others. She earned a Bachelor Degree in Social Work from Southwest Texas State University (now Texas State) and her Masters in Social Work from the University of Texas at Austin. Vicki’s studies have included Child Welfare and Direct Practice with Children and Families. Her career began with the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services where she served as a specialized investigator with Child Protective Services for five years. The rest of her Social Work career has been working in the medical field; acute/rehab hospital care, home health, and hospice.

Year of Mercy Spiritual Journey

FLATONIA — Greetings to All. Please mark your calendars. We invite you to join us at our Jubilee Year of Mercy Holy Door Spiritual Journey to be held on March 19, at 10:00 a.m. at Raphael’s Refuge in Flatonia. Bishop David Fellhauer will celebrate the Eucharist for the life advocates on that day. He will also bless a new Roman Missal being donated to Raphael’s Refuge by Gabriel Project. For more information on Raphael’s Refuge visit their website at www.raphaelsrefuge.org. For more information on the Pilgrimage contact Barbara McCain Williams at (361) 649-1612 or Cathy Rojas at (361) 484-1677.

Natural Family Classes Offered

The CREIGHTON MODEL Fertility Care System (CrMS) featuring NaPro TECHNOLOGY™ is a system designed for women to learn how to monitor, maintain and evaluate their procreative and gynecologic health for their entire reproductive life based on observations of their own biological markers. Couples will learn how to use the system as a shared system of family planning for avoiding or achieving pregnancies. The method effectiveness for couples intending to avoid a pregnancy with normal fertility is 95.9% and achieving a pregnancy 98% within 6 cycles. Woman who experience problems in the area of female health (e.g. PMS, painful periods, irregular cycles etc) can also learn to chart and receive natural treatments by local gynecologists trained in this method.

In addition, the system is designed to help couples with infertility. Effectiveness studies showed that couples with infertility using just the CrMS alone, 20-40% were able to achieve a pregnancy while couples using the system and being provided with medical treatment by a CrMS trained physician up to 80% were able to achieve a pregnancy.

A introduction session will be Saturday, April 23, at 1:30 p.m. at Holy Family Church CCD building room number one, 2011 Briar Lane in Wharton. The cost is $35/ individual or couple

Any questions or to register please email Susanne Koch at susannekoch614@gmail.com or call (979) 488-4528.

Sunday Readings from March 6 - April 10

March 6 - Fourth Sunday of Lent
Joshua 5:9A, 10-12
Psalms 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7
2 Corinthians 5:17-21

March 13 - Fifth Sunday of Lent
Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalms 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6
Philippians 3:8-14
John 8:1-11

March 20 - Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion
Isaiah 50:4-7
Psalms 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24
Philippians 2:6-11

March 27 - The Resurrection of the Lord the Mass of Easter Day
Acts 10:34a, 37-43
Psalms 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23
Colossians 3:1-4
John 20:1-9

April 3 - Sunday of Divine Mercy
Acts 5:12-16
Psalms 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24
Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19
John 20:19-31

April 10 - Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41
Psalms 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-19

For daily and Sunday readings, as well as a daily reflection video, visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings.

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DIOCESE The Catholic Lighthouse
Page 11 — March 2016
Obispo Brendan Cahill - “Mi Corazón Inmaculado Triunfará”

Hermanos y Hermanas,

San Juan Pablo II hizo una peregrinación a Fátima, Portugal, el 13 de mayo de 2000. Durante el gran jubileo al comienzo del nuevo milenio, el Papa Santo deseó ofrecer gracias a Nuestra Señora para muchas gracias especiales. Ese día él predicó en una Misa, y después de la Misa un anuncio fue leído por el Cardenal Angelo Sodano, quien en ese momento era el Secretario de Estado Vaticano. Las citas que voy a mencionar en este artículo se pueden encontrar más completa en el sitio web Vaticano, busca http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/docum ents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20000626_message-fatima_sp.html.

El Cardenal Sodano dijo: “La visión de Fátima tiene que ver sobre todo con la lucha de los sistemas ateos contra la Iglesia y los cristianos, y describe el inmenso sufrimiento de los testigos de la fe del último siglo del segundo milenio. Es un interminable Via Crucis dirigido por los Papas del Siglo XX…

Después del atentado del 13 de mayo de 1981, a Su Santidad le pareció claro que había sido ‘una mano materna quien guió la trayectoria de la bala’, permitiendo ‘al Papa agonizante’ que se detuviera ‘en el umbral de la muerte’…

Los sucesivos acontecimiento del año 1989 han llevado, tanto en la Unión Soviética como en numerosos Países del Este, a la caída del régimen comunista que propugnaba el ateísmo. También por esto el Sumo Pontifice le está agradecido a la Virgen desde lo profundo del corazón. Sin embargo, en otras partes del mundo los ataques contra la Iglesia y los cristianos, con la carga de sufrimiento que conllevan, desgraciadamente no han cesado. Aunque las vicisitudes a las que se refiere la tercera parte del ‘secreto’ de Fátima parecen ya pertenecer al pasado, la llamada de la Virgen a la conversión y a la penitencia, pronunciada al inicio del siglo XX, conserva todavía hoy una estimulante actualidad. ‘La Señora del mensajero parecía leer con una perspicacia especial los signos de los tiempos- los signos de nuestro tiempo-… La invitación insistentes de María santísima a la penitencia es la manifestación de su solicitud materna por el destino de la familia humana, necesitada de conversión y perdón.’…

Como parte de nuestra celebración diocesana del Jubileo de la Misericordia les invitó a participar en la Consagración a Jesús a través de María en el 990 aniversario de la primera aparición de Fátima. La fecha de este aniversario es el viernes 13 de mayo, dos días antes de la fiesta de la Pentecostés. El principal motivo por considerar la consagración a Jesús por María es de la inspiración de las convocaciones dadas en Fátima durante ese día en 2000. Después de que el Cardenal Sodano entregó el anuncio que mencioné anteriormente, en ese tiempo-Cardenal Ratzinger (ahora Papa Emérito Benedicto XVI) ofreció un profundo comentario teológico del mensaje de Fátima. En el último párrafo de su comentario escribió: “Quisiera al final volver aún sobre otra palabra clave del ‘secreto’, que en razón se ha hecho famosa: ‘mi Corazón Inmaculado triunfará’. ¿Qué quiere decir esto? Que el corazón abierto a Dios, purificado por la contemplación de Dios, es más fuerte que los fusiles y que cualquier tipo de arma. El fiat de María, la palabra de su corazón, ha cambiado la historia del mundo, porque ella ha introducido en el mundo al Salvador, porque gracias a este, Dios pudo hacerse hombre en nuestro mundo y así permanece ahora y para siempre. El malgino tiene poder en este mundo, lo vemos y lo experimentamos continuamente; él tiene poder porque nuestra libertad se deja alejar continuamente de Dios. Pero desde que Dios mismo tiene un corazón humano y de ese modo ha dirigido la libertad del hombre hacia el bien, hacia Dios, la libertad hacia el mal ya no tiene la última palabra. Desde aquel momento cobran todo su valor las palabras de Jesús: ‘Padeceréis tribulaciones en el mundo, pero tened confianza; yo he venido al mundo’ (Jn 16,33). El mensaje de Fátima nos invita a confiar en esta promesa.’

En este Año del Jubileo de la Misericordia que nuestros corazones sean purificados por la contemplación de Dios y por nuestros actos de penitencia y de caridad para la salvación de todo el mundo. En esta edición del Faro publicamos una oración de San Juan Pablo II que él rezó como una Acción de Gracias a la Virgen Inmaculada de María. También daremos la referencia a un libro escrito por St. Louis de Montfort – ‘Preparación Para la Consagración Total’ – que provee un guía espiritual durante 33 días para prepararse para esta consagración. Para aquellos que quieran hacer este viaje especial, comenzará el 10 de abril y puede concluir el 13 de mayo con una sencilla oración por nuestra Madre Santísima. El libro estará disponible en la tienda de Incarnate Word en Victoria en inglés y en español.

Que Dios les bendiga y proteja a ustedes y sus familias en esta temporada especial, gracias por su testigo hermosa de la fe cada día. Vamos a mantener uno al otro en la oración! +Brendan

Oración- Acto de Consagración Por Santo Papa Juan Pablo

Madre de los hombres y de los pueblos, Tú conoces todos sus sufrimientos y sus esperanzas, Tú sientes maternalmente todas las luchas entre el bien y el mal, entre la luz y las tinieblas que sacuden al mundo, acoge nuestro grito dirigido en el Espíritu Santo directamente a tu Corazón y abreza con el amor de la Madre y de la Esclava del Señor a los que más esperan este abrazo, y, al mismo tiempo, a aquellos cuya entrega Tú esperas de modo especial. Toma bajo tu protección materna a toda la familia humana a la que, con todo afecto a ti, Madre, confiamos. Que se acerque para todos el tiempo de la paz y de la libertad, el tiempo de la verdad, de la justicia y de la esperanza.

Católicos de la diócesis de Victoria viajan a ver Papa Francisco

El 18 de Febrero, 2016 personas viajaron a El Paso, Texas, y Ciudad Juárez, México de la Diócesis de Victoria para ver al Papa Francisco. Entre los miles de personas fueron un grupo de Bay City, un grupo de Nuestra Señora de los Dolores Iglesia en Victoria y Obispo Cahill. Obispo Cahill tuvo el privilegio para acompañar a los otros obispos en el lado de Texas en el dique y servir a los “Invitados del VIP”. También visitó con una amiga de la Casa de la Anunciación, un refugio en El Paso para inmigrantes. Esther Trevino, una de las miembros del grupo de Bay City, que estaba en el Estadio del Sol, compartió, “el momento más poderoso para mí, fue cuando él nos bendijo”. Estaban presentes entre 50.000 católicos que visitaron El Paso el miércoles para el evento “Las dos naciones, una sola fe” en honor de gira de México de papa Francis.

Obispo Brendan Cahill está en la foto con una amiga de la familia, Marissa Sieck. Ella trabaja en la Casa de la Anunciación en El Paso, Tejas.

Un grupo de 10 viajaron de Bay City hasta El Paso al Estadio del Sol para estar cerca de Papa Francisco cuando visitó la frontera de Tejas.
A BORDO DEL AVIÓN EN DONDE VIAJABA EL PAPA DE MÉXICO — (CNS) — El Papa Francisco insistió en que construir murallas para mantener a los inmigrantes fuera del país de uno no es cristiano, mientras volaba sobre territorio texano en el avión que lo llevaría de regreso a Roma, después de haber salido de México.

En su ya acostumbrada rueda de prensa durante su vuelo del 17 de febrero, después de un viaje de seis días que terminó en la coyuntura fronteriza entre México y los Estados Unidos, le preguntaron al papa su reacción ante la propuesta del precandidato presidencial de los Estados Unidos, Donald Trump, de extender el muro a lo largo de la frontera y lo que pensaba acerca de los comentarios hechos en Fox Business Network de que el papa Francisco es una persona política y que había sido utilizado por los mexicanos.

“Aristóteles definió a la persona humana como ‘animal politicus’ (animal político); de esta manera, por lo menos soy una persona humana a los ojos de Trump, dijo el papa Francisco.

“En cuanto que si soy o no ‘peón’”, dijo el papa, eso se lo dejó a ustedes, al pueblo, que ellos lo decidan.

Pero una cosa que el papa Francisco dijo que bien sabía, era que “una persona que piensa solamente en construir murallas, en cualquier parte que sea, en lugar de construir puentes, no es cristiana”.

Y cuando le preguntaron si un católico podría votar a favor de un tal candidato en buena conciencia, el papa les respondió a los periodistas: “No me voy a mezclar en eso. Yo solamente digo que tal hombre no es cristiano si dice eso” de construir murallas.

V-ENCUENTRO — El Obispo Brendan Cahill ha elegido al Diácono Joe Duplan, Director del Centro de Renovación Espiritual, como copresidente y 10 delegados para representar a la Diócesis de Victoria como parte de una región X equipo del Quinto Encuentro. Los delegados aprenderán el proceso del Encuentro y conducirán la ejecución y en la formación del programa en nuestra diócesis y entrenarán equipos de la parroquia. El objetivo principal del proceso de Encuentro es discernir el camino del cual Hispanos / Latinos responden como la iglesia.

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Hay muchas personas en este mundo que se quedan sin alimentos. Cuando gran parte de nuestros alimentos se desperdicia, considerar cómo las buenas prácticas de administración de sus propios hábitos alimenticios pueden beneficiar a los demás que no tienen los mismos recursos.

DAR DE BEBER AL SEDIENTO
Muchos de nuestros hermanos y hermanas en Cristo no tienen acceso a agua potable y sufrir de la falta de esta necesidad básica. Debemos apoyar los esfuerzos de las personas que trabajan hacia una mayor accesibilidad de este recurso esencial.

ALBERGARÁ LAS PERSONAS SIN HOGAR
Hay muchas circunstancias que podrían conducir a una persona convertirse en una persona sin un hogar. Cristo nos anima a ir al encuentro de los que no tienen casas, afirmando su valor y ayudándoles a que busquen una solución a los retos que se enfrentan.

VISITAR A LOS ENFERMOS
Los que están enfermos a menudo se olvidan o evitan. A pesar de su enfermedad, estas personas todavía tienen mucho que ofrecer a aquéllos que se toman el tiempo para visitar y consolarlos.

VISITAR A LOS PRESOS
La gente en la cárcel siguen siendo personas, hechos a imagen y semejanza de Dios. No importa lo que alguien ha hecho, que se merecen la oportunidad de escuchar la Palabra de Dios y encontrar la verdad del mensaje de Cristo.

ENTERRAR A LOS MUERTOS
A través de nuestras oraciones y acciones durante estos tiempos mostramos nuestro respeto a la vida, que es siempre un don de Dios, y consuelo a los que lloran.

DAR LIMOSNA A LOS POBRES
Donar dinero a organizaciones que tienen la capacidad de proporcionar soporte y servicios para los necesitados. Hacer la investigación y encontrar organizaciones que ponen a las personas en necesidad en primer lugar, en lugar de ganancias.

Obras Espirituales

ACONSEJAR A LA DUDOSA
Todo el mundo tiene momentos de duda en su camino de fe. Sin embargo, siempre debemos recordar que Cristo es el Camino, la Verdad y la Vida y nos volvemos a lo largo de nuestro camino.

INSTRUIR A LOS IGNORANTES
Obtener información acerca de nuestra fe y estar abierto a hablar con otros acerca de nuestras creencias. Siempre hay algo más por descubrir acerca de nuestra fe.

AMONESTAR AL PECADOR
No juzgar, pero ser de apoyo en ayudar a otros a encontrar su camino y corregir sus errores. Juntos podemos aprender a caminar más cerca de Cristo.

CONSOLANDO A LOS AFLAGIDOS
Esté abierto a escuchar y consolar a los que se enfrentan con la pena. Incluso si no estamos seguros de las palabras adecuadas para decir que nuestra presencia puede hacer una gran diferencia.

LESIONES PERDONAR
Perdonar a los demás es difícil a veces porque no tenemos la misericordia y la compasión sin límites de Dios, Pero Jesús nos enseña que debemos perdonar como Dios perdonó, confiando en él para ayudar a mostrar a otros la misericordia de Dios.

MALES QUE LLEVAN CON PACIENCIA
No seas amargado por errores cometidos en su contra. Colocar su esperanza en Dios para que pueda soportar los problemas de este mundo y se enfrenten a ellos con un espíritu compasivo.

REZAR POR LOS VIVOS Y LOS MUERTOS
La oración es una de las maneras más poderosas que podemos apoyar a otros. Unirse en oración por los vivos y los muertos nos confía en el cuidado de Dios.
Two priests, nun bring mission of mercy to Philly neighborhood

By Lou Baldwin

Catholic News Service

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — “Two Irishmen and a nun entered a bar…” What’s the punchline?

There isn’t one because this is no joke, but rather a new Catholic outreach effort of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia that has taken firm root in a former bar in a tough section of the city.

The two Irishmen are Father Joseph Devlin, former pastor of St. Bridget Parish in Philadelphia, and Father William Murphy, former pastor of Assumption BVM Parish in West Grove, and the nun is Sister Ann Raymond Welte, an Immaculate Heart of Mary sister, who is former director of Temple University’s Newman Center.

The onetime bar is now Mother of Mercy House, which opened last July as a place of worship and social ministry. It’s a haven of hope in a neighborhood where hope has been in short supply for years, although there are slight hints of a comeback.

It all started when nearby Ascension of Our Lord Parish closed in 2012, and Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia asked his priests for ideas on what could be done to keep a Catholic presence in the Kensington neighborhood, and Fathers Devlin and Murphy both independently volunteered to be missioned there.

“It has met expectations,” said Father Murphy, adding they were not taking parishioners away from nearby parishes and have the opportunity to increase awareness and involve others in their inner-city spiritual and social ministry.

“We are at the heart of the neighborhood and we are working with the neighbors,” Father Murphy told CatholicPhilly.com, the news website of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. “It is very exciting.”

His former parish had a coat drive that enabled him to distribute 200 coats to people in Kensington. Also, Mother of Mercy distributes donated foods to people who come often before or after Mass.

Because substance abuse is endemic in the neighborhood, an Alcoholics Anonymous program is up and running with a Narcotics Anonymous program ready to start.

“We welcome anyone who is addicted to come to the meetings that are held right here,” Father Murphy said, adding they also work to get people with addictions into available treatment programs.

An evening prayer group has already been started, but another outreach, the offering of Masses in private homes, had to be dropped because in the psychology of the neighborhood people are unwilling to welcome others they do not know well into their homes.

Sister Ann Raymond, who knew both Father Devlin and Father Murphy well, was invited to join the team, which she did with the hearty approval of her congregation.

For her the first theme is to help the people spiritually because they have a spiritual hunger and secondly to assist them with their other needs.

“As a woman, she feels she complements what Fathers Devlin and Murphy can do,” Sister Ann Raymond Welte said. “God made me a female, he wouldn’t make me a female if he didn’t have a reason,” she said. “I think each (male and female) has its own presence and personality. I think the male presence is necessary and the female presence is necessary too, it brings something different.”

Mother of Mercy isn’t a ministry exclusively for religious. Dr. Frank McNesby, a pediatrician at St. Christopher’s Hospital who attended the Mass and is an active member of the Philadelphia Guild of the Catholic Medical Association, said the association is actively exploring ways to engage in some form of outreach in Kensington.

“The goal is to treat the body to get to the soul,” he said. “Our first mission is the corporal works of mercy, and we hope to engage the needy population to bring them in and then we can embrace whatever their faith needs are.”

“I heard about this at the Catholic Worker house,” said Geoff Gusoff, a third-year medical student at the University of Pennsylvania. “I don’t know how, but I want to connect, to help the community, to meet the neighbors.”

Some of those neighbors are also interested in Mother of Mercy House.

George, who was relaxing on a nearby stoop, said, “They are not bad neighbors, I go to St. Francis Inn, too.”

Benny, another neighbor, said, “They gave me clothes for myself and my kids too. Drugs are out of hand here and I love these people for what they teach.”

Father Devlin agrees there is a great deal of drugs and violence in the neighborhood, but in spite of that, “there are friendly people here with a strong sense of community. There are wonderful families who work hard, try to take care of their children and try to take care of each other.”

Baldwin writes for CatholicPhilly.com, the news website of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

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ST. ANTHONY RELICS IN HOUSTON — Father Lawrence Jozwiak elevates a reliquary with a relic of St. Anthony of Padua before the congregation at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Houston Feb. 19. (CNS photo/James Ramos, Texas Catholic Herald)

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3rd ANNUAL SCHULENBURG SAUSAGEFEST

Saturday, April 2, 2016

SAUSAGE-MAKING CONTESTS
NEW CONTESTS: HOMEMADE WINE, SAUERKRAUT, AND PICKLES
Some judges will be chosen from the audience….It could be you!
Opening Ceremonies 11:45 Grand March in the Street 12:00
The Shiner Hobo Band (12:00-2:00) The Czechaholics (1:30-4:30)
The Enthusiastic Biergarten Mark Halata & Texavita (5:00-7:00)
Texas Dream (7:30-Close)
Dancing in the Street Arts & Crafts Booths and Food Booths Open at 12:00
Biergarten Great Food & Cold Beverages
Children’s Activities 1:00-5:00
Easter Bunny 3:00-5:00
Antique Cars & Tractors Veterans’ Motorcycle Group
Fun Run: The Wurst Run Ever!
Free Admission
Downtown Schulenburg (halfway between Houston & San Antonio) on historic North Main Street
For information call the Greater Schelenburg Chamber of Commerce
979-743-4514 or 866-504-5294
or E-mail SchulenbugSausagefest@gmail.com
www.schulenburgsasagefest.com

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HEAD OF SCHOOL

St. Pius X High School is seeking a Head of School to begin June 1, 2016. Founded in 1956 and sponsored by the Dominican Sisters of Houston, St. Pius X is a secondary co-educational high school located in north Houston enrolling approximately 700 students.

For qualifications, position description, application and other pertinent information, go to www.stpiusx.org/employment
**March**

**Hillje–St. Procopius Spring Festival** Mar. 6 at the parish hall. Beginning at 11:00 a.m. fried-chicken dinner with plates-to-go or dine-in at $9 p/p. There will also be a bake sale in the hall.

**Wharton–Holy Family Church** (2009 Briar Lane) Lenten Fish Fry each Friday through Mar. 18 serving 5:30-7:00 p.m. Dine-inside for all you can eat! Drive-thru available. All adults $10 p/p, children 6-10 year olds are $5 p/p and 0-5 year olds eat free. All proceeds benefit Holy Family Building Fund.

**Blessing–Knights of Columbus Council #4307, Lenten Fish Fry, auction and raffle** Mar. 13 at the St. Peter’s Parish Hall. Fried catfish dinner served from 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.; $10 p/p (desserts and tea/coffee included). The auction and raffle will be held during the event. Proceeds benefit KC scholarships and charities.

**Inez–St. Joseph CDA Games Party** Mar. 13, from 1:00-5:00 p.m. at Parish Hall. Donation of $8 p/p. Door prizes, raffle, chicken spaghetti dinner will be served. RSVP by calling Kathy Prukop (361) 575-3559; Donna DeBault (361) 935-3890; or Karen Franz (361) 573-9029(361) 550-5183.

**New Taiton–St. John’s Society** Golden dinner and spring festival Mar. 13 at Taiton Community Center. A fried-chicken, homemade dressing dinner beginning at 11:00 a.m. for dine-in or plates-to-go at $9 p/p. There will also be a country store, games and auction.

**Schulenburg–St. Rose of Lima Spring Festival** Mar. 13, at the KC Hall. A turkey dinner served from 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at $9 p/p for dine-in or drive-thru for adults with $4 p/p for children, dine-in only. Auction at 11:30 a.m., games, music and more benefiting St. Rose of Lima Church and School.

**April**

**Schulenburg–Sausagefest** April 2. See ad on pg. 14.

**Victoria–Our Lady of Sorrows Guadalupana Society annial Tea Party**. Theme: Marie Gras Tea in the French Quarter, Apr. 2, Trinity Hall. 1:00-4:30 p.m. Vendors wine tasting, silent auction, best table decor prize and hat prize; finger foods; $20 p/p or table of 8 for $160 (15yrs. and older). Semi formal dinner. For more information contact: Minnie at (361) 550-7217; Mary Margaret at (361) 648-2939; or Mary at (361) 571-4980.

**Victoria–KJZT Society #101 bake sale** Apr. 16-17 after all Masses at Holy Family. Benefits the Food Bank.

**Blessing–Catholic Daughters Court #2546 of St. Peter’s Church** will have a chicken spaghetti meal (chicken spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, and dessert), Apr. 17, at St Peter’s Parish Hall. Serving begins at 10:30 a.m. until sold out. Plates are $8 p/p (dine-in or to-go). Benefits the Catholic Daughter scholarships and charities.

**Victoria–KC Golf Tournament** April 22. See pg. 6.
HOUSTON—Fifteen seminarians, from St. Mary’s Seminary, received the ministry of Lector from Bishop Brendan Cahill (former rector for the seminary) on February 21. This is the first of several steps before ordination to priesthood so it was a significant day for them, their families, their dioceses, and the entire seminary.

The Mass continued so that the new lectors received the “Word made flesh” in the Eucharist for the first time as lectors who are charged with proclaiming the Word in the midst of God’s people. At the end Father Trung Nguyen, rector, thanked all those involved, especially the family and friends who have supported these men during their vocational journey. It was a joyous and beautiful celebration.

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Information from St. Mary’s Seminary website. To view more pictures go to www.smseminary.org/news/ministry-of-lector.

Seminarians take next step towards priesthood

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Longest Married Couple in the Diocese of Victoria

The Catholic Lighthouse asked parishes to submit couples names that were married the longest. This was in conjunction with World Marriage Day, February 14 this year.

Edward and Merlene Jurek, members of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Flatonia, were married on June 17, 1944, at the Ellington Field Chapel in Houston, Texas. Edward Jurek was in the Air Force at the time. They are the oldest married couple in the Diocese of Victoria and they will celebrate their 72nd Wedding Anniversary on June 17, 2016.

Merlene (Guidry) Jurek was born in Tucson, Arizona on January 16, 1925, and just celebrated her 91st birthday. Her parents were Ovey and Effie Guidry of Tucson.

Edward Jurek (most people refer to him as Ed) was born in Moulton, Texas on September 10, 1922, and later lived on a farm near Praha. He celebrated his 93rd birthday last year. His great-great grandparents, Matej and Terezie Novak, donated the property upon which was build the Assumption of the Virgin Mary Catholic Church in Praha, Texas.

The Jureks are faithful members of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Flatonia and both are active members of the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Daughters of America as well as many other community organizations and dance clubs in the Flatonia area.

BISHOP VISITS SEMINARY AND SEMINARIANS—Bishop Brendan Cahill and Father Kristopher Fuchs (left), who is a recent graduate and ordained, visited the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. Three diocesan seminarians, Chase Goodman, Deacon Max Landman and Dalton Ervin currently attend. The Roman Catholic Seminary prepares men to be ordained to the priesthood. Deacon Max will be ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Victoria on June 4, 2016. Chase and Dalton are both currently in Theology I.

BISHOP VISITS STUDENTS IN AGGIELAND—The students and parishioners from St. Mary’s Church in College Station welcomed Bishop Brendan Cahill on February 20, when he celebrated Mass. A reception was held at the student center following Mass. Pictured above with Bishop Cahill are students from the Diocese of Victoria who are attending Texas A&M University.